OUTLAW

AS PUBLISHED BY A·D·A ISSUE TWO
(ACTUALLY ISSUE TWO - AND A HALF, 2008...)

Outlaw is the publication of Anarchist Direct Action, a Melbourne-based organisation of anarchists, which aims to actively participate in the struggle against capitalism and the state.

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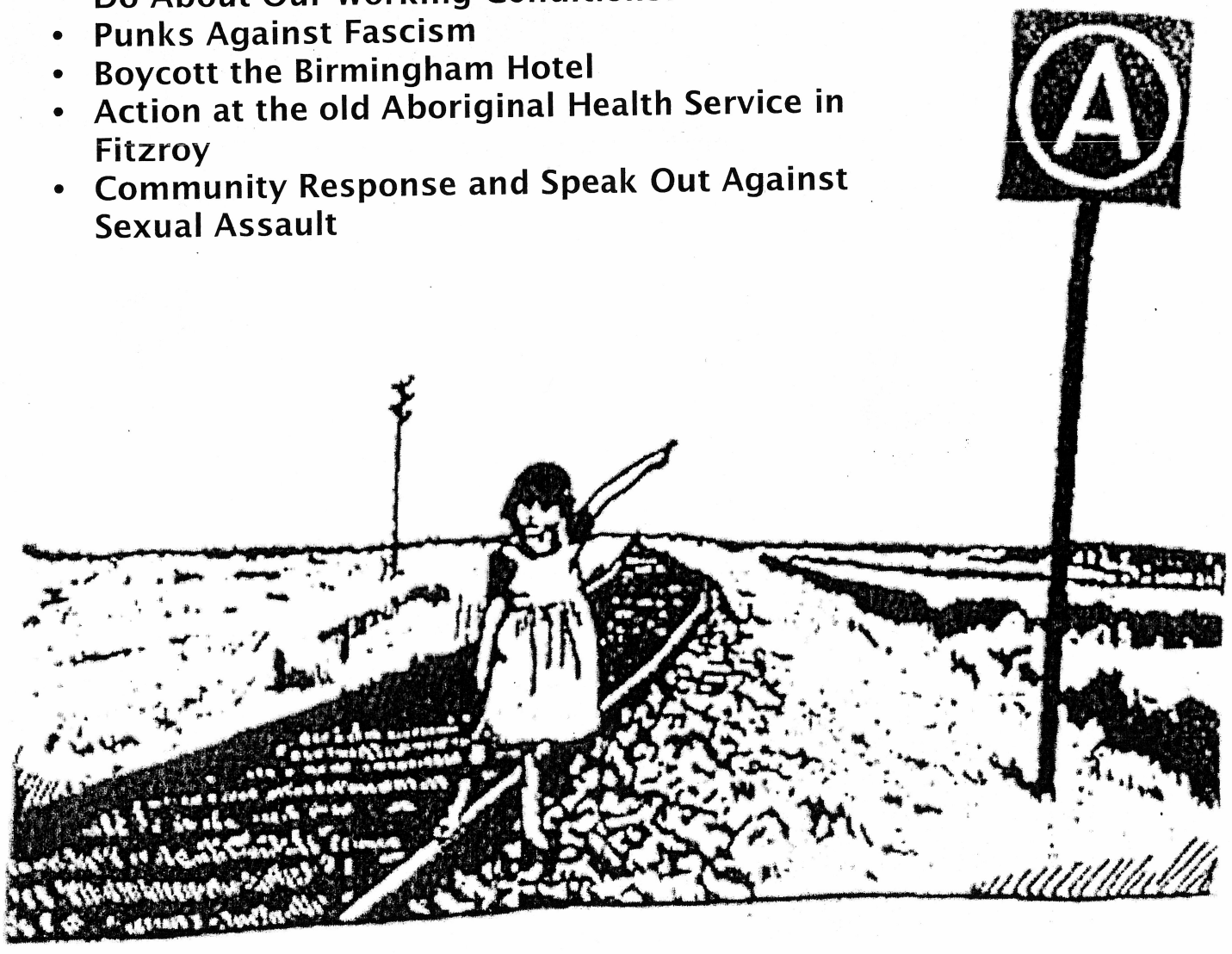


Editorial

Outlaw is back! Yea, and oh yes, verily, we have returned! Although it took us almost six months to release the second issue of our bi-monthly journal, we've finally made it. There's been some changes to the nature of the publication. When we first started Outlaw, we intended to use it as a space for argument and discussion of radical ideas, encompassing politics as well as philosophy, with killer graphic design and artistic content too. And in fact that's still what motivates us. What's changed, as noted in the tagline for this issue, is that Outlaw has been adopted by Anarchist Direct Action to be used as a platform/newspaper for the dissemination of Anarchist ideas, which means (hopefully) more writers, more resources, and more opinions! We'd still like submissions from anyone and everyone who feels strongly about the purposes of the publication. We're hoping to publish one longer piece each month, as well as a selection of shorter articles and reports. And starting this month Bootleg Ben will be doing a regular *How To...* column on the back page; Outlaw accepts no responsibility for any injury caused while attempting instructions.

Enjoy reading.

M. Skelton

Contact outlaw@riseup.net to submit articles, or for more info.

What is Anarchist Direct Action?

Anarchist Direct Action (ADA) is a Melbourne-based activist organisation of anarchists, aimed at participating in the struggle against capitalism and the state.

We are activists within our communities and participate in a broad range of social, political and community groups including workers' organisations, student organisations, protest groups, campaigns, and other direct action groups. We are workers, students, unemployed, individuals and collective organisers.

ADA aims at contributing to the movement against capital and the state through the politics of direct action. For us, direct action does not pertain to the level of militancy we are willing or able to live up to in our activism. It means that we act on behalf of ourselves and do not seek to 'represent' others in our political action. We encourage others to do the same instead of leaving political action up to others, be they politicians, bureaucrats, officials or other representative institutions. Our approach derives not only from the belief that in a free society institutions should be both directly democratic and federatively run, but that in getting there we must also actively oppose new, unnecessary hierarchies from establishing themselves. This is relevant in our workers' organisations, student organisations, protest groups, campaigns, and even in direct action groups. In the struggle against capitalism we must also maintain a critique of power in all its forms, not simply that which amounts to economic exploitation.

We are opposed to capitalism. This is because capitalism is an economic system based on private property and therefore the dispossession and alienation of the vast majority of people from the products of their own labour. Instead, we are for a self managed economic organisation of society, whereby the tools and the whole productive capacity of

society is autonomously owned and controlled in a federative and directly democratic way.

We are opposed to the state. The state is a form of social monopoly over the autonomy of individuals, or groups of individuals, to associate freely with each other. Any form of government, even so-called 'representative democracies' and 'dictatorships of the proletariat' will eventually end in despotism because the interests of the rulers will always depart from the ruled. Without the right to freely associate, there is always a tendency towards the centralisation of power, the oppression of minorities by tyrannical majorities, and eventually despotism. The modern nation state arose with capitalism, and representative political action which is condoned by the state (such as elections) only serves to contain political challenges in such a way that they cannot fundamentally threaten the system of capital. It is the state which, through its monopoly on violence over society, enforces private property. The state is the political expression of oppression and must be overthrown if capitalism is to be overthrown. Direct action and the rejection of government and capital together, must be the driving force for revolutionary change.

With all this in mind, ADA meets regularly to organise how to best contribute to strong and effective community opposition to these illegitimate authorities. We have taken part in community action together, and in our individual pursuits the group acts as a space to reflect on our daily struggles. We have recently started making publications, and have a number of projects on the go at once. We also discuss how to make our action more effective and how to best advocate for the tactics of direct action within the broader social movement.

We are open to those who identify as Anarchist and the group is freely federated - meaning the only requirement is that you want to work with us and we want to work with you.

Contact us:
AnarchistDirectAction@yahoo.com

So Rudd is Prime Minister... Now what do we do about our working conditions?

Voters have rejected the Liberal/ National Coalition and the ALP have come to power. But workers are not fools. Our conditions at work need to change for the better, and they need to change immediately.

The ALP were elected on a mandate of repealing WorkChoices and real action on climate change. But so far, they have said they will keep in place existing Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) for five years and they won't repeal Right of Entry laws that take away the rights of union officials to enter workplaces to inspect conditions, entitlements and health and safety issues.

When thousands of members of the Australian Nurses Federation recently went on strike over poor pay and conditions, they were given a standing ovation by hundreds of unionists. The Victorian State ALP government could not be seen as anti-worker so close to the election.

But the Federal ALP has now inherited the job of administering WorkChoices, though they say they will repeal it. As workers concerned about the wages, conditions and entitlements of our fellow workers, we have a responsibility to take collective action and convince union leaders that it's not okay to allow Rudd and the ALP a honeymoon period while we are still being ripped off. Even if the ALP are successful in repealing WorkChoices sooner rather than later (though the Liberal/ National Coalition will retain the balance of power in the Senate until July 2008), they have not given workers any guarantee that their new workplace relations regime will be any better.

An ALP government will not automatically mean that our bosses will negotiate with us workers collectively or reinstate entitlements that were lost when AWAs were introduced. We won't sit back and celebrate a change of political leaders when this has no concrete, positive impact on our lives.

Take direct action

If your demands are not acted upon, don't sit back and wait for things to change or for the central union leadership to pressure your boss. In every workplace there are specific things that can be done that will get results.

Identify management's weak spots and utilise them to your advantage.

- **Eg.** night shift workers at a call centre may be integral to the functioning of the company, as there may be less workers available to work nights. If a significant amount of night shift workers decide to strike, management will be forced to listen to your concerns.

- **Eg.** Co-ordinate 'go-slow' days. Every now and then people have 'off days'. Your boss is likely to notice when you are demanding workplace changes at the same time as holding up business as usual.

- **Eg.** Use the media. In the aftermath of the election, the media will be looking for stories about workplace changes under Rudd. Bosses are susceptible to bad publicity and it will boost the confidence of those you work with if people take notice of your legitimate concerns.

- **Eg.** Do a bit of research as to what organisations would support you. There are plenty of people who will be happy to express their solidarity with you. For instance, us! This way both your boss and union delegates will feel the pressure more strongly.

Bullying, intimidation, unsafe conditions, low wages and the pairing back of entitlements are a daily reality for many workers. The Right of Entry laws introduced by the Coalition mean that employers decide at their own discretion whether or not union officials can inspect pay records and occupational health and safety practices on site. The fact that the ALP won't repeal these laws means they need to be pressured as directly as possible. We can't *expect* change, we must fight for it.

Organising in our workplaces

If you are on an AWA or facing poor conditions at work and are not confident that your union leaders will push a Rudd government to make changes, here are some tips for organising in your workplace and in your local community:

Call a meeting to specifically discuss solutions to the problems you face around pay, conditions and entitlements in your workplace. Make sure that every one has an equal voice and opportunity in your meeting and that people feel empowered to take action. Get to know the different groups of workers in your workplace, the locations and the shifts they work.

List your demands. What are the specific issues around poor conditions, wages and entitlements that you need changed? Devise a timeline for how each one can be addressed and tell the union delegate in your workplace (if you have one) that you wish this to be taken seriously.

Have good communication and work collectively. Have a phone tree, email list and regular meetings that don't waffle on. Rotate responsibilities so that not just one person does all the work.

Tell everyone! Use the resources you have to get support and raise community awareness of the changes you wish to be made and why. Have a rally outside your workplace and give information to other nearby workers about what you are doing.

IR laws are worse for young people and women.

The ALP are well aware that women and young people are worse off under WorkChoices. But this inequality will only be eliminated through political pressure.

Many women workers are already in casual jobs receiving less pay than their fellow male workers. Many women workers in the textile, clothing and footwear industry receive between $3 & $5 per hour.

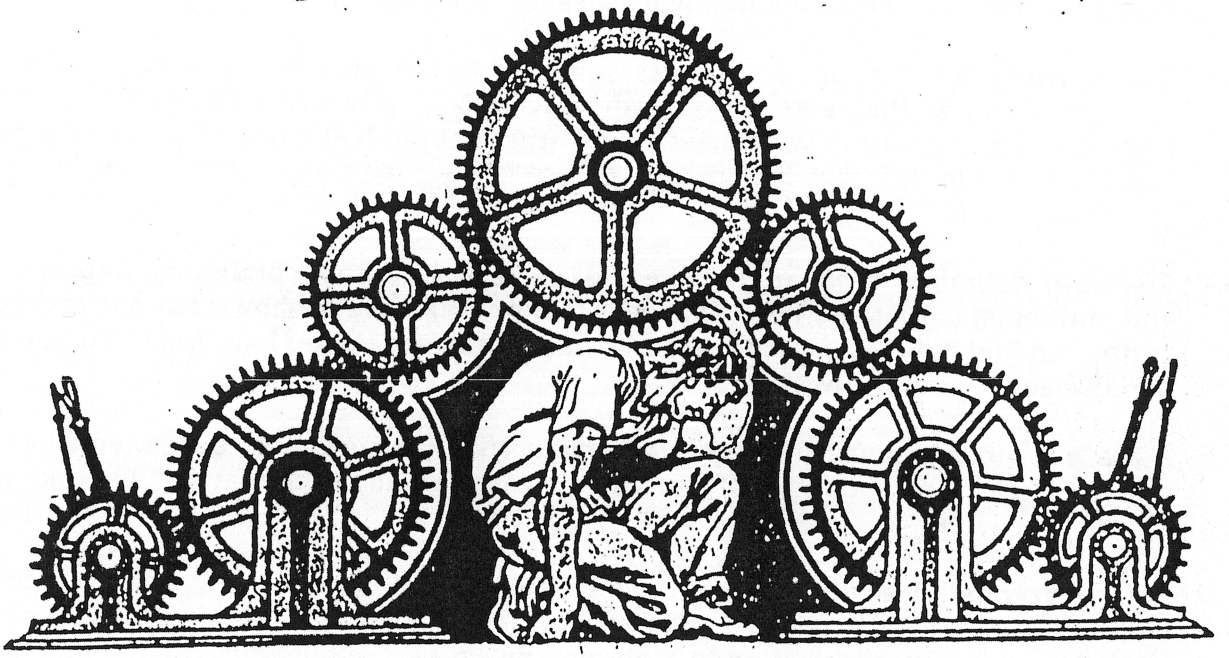
"Youth Wages" mean that employers can lawfully discriminate against people under 21 years of age by paying them less than the minimum wage.

Gillard has not said she will repeal youth wages, so apprentices, trainees and young people working in fast food and hospitality and other young people cannot expect wage parity without a fight.

Workplace action is the key

Most of us spend a significant portion of our lives at work, even though we often wish we didn't have to. But if we care about the conditions of our fellow workers, we have to fight now more than ever and send a message to our bosses, the union leaders and the Rudd government that we will not tolerate poor working conditions.

The Cog In The Machine On Which All Depends



Punks Against Fascism

On Saturday 13th October the Croatian Social Club, located at the Melbourne Knights Soccer club in West Sunshine, hosted the annual Ian Stuart Donaldson commemoration gig held by Australian Neo Nazis. Ian Stuart was the lead singer for English Fascist Punk band Skrewdriver.

Partly due to the efforts of anti-fascist activists, this annual event was driven away from the Birmingham Hotel on Smith St in Fitzroy. Last year a woman of colour passing the gig was abused and forced to call herself degrading names by several of the nazi thugs in attendance. A boycott of the Birmy related to these events continues. Numerous Melbourne bands now refuse to play at the pub and in past weeks, ten A0 posters have been sighted in the Adshells of Fitzroy and Collingwood, urging people to complain to the Yarra Council and the Liquor Licensing Commission about the Birmingham's long standing practice of hosting nazi gigs and meetings.

Playing at the gig was American neo-Nazi rock band Final War, who sing such lyrics as, "By voices loud and clear, Inform the youth of the truth, The Jews' greatest fear...", and "We fight Jews". Group members in the United States and Europe have reportedly been jailed for assaults, bombings and murders.

In the weeks leading up to the Croatian Social Club gig, people tried to establish its location, assuming the Birmingham would be crazy to host it a second year in a row after 200 people attended a protest following last year's Blood and Honour gig.

In two separate telephone conversations on the night of the gig, management of the social club denied that the gig was taking place.

In the ensuing weeks, pressure mounted on the Melbourne Knights and on the Football Federation of Victoria, who have apologised and distanced themselves from this event. What's more, deep splits have emerged in the Croatian social club, which was founded by Melbourne's Croatian community 55 years ago.

The Knights social club has previously been criticised by Jews for ignoring protests after naming its hall in inner-city Melbourne after a Nazi collaborator. Jewish groups want the police to investigate, as this event occurred just weeks after four Jewish people were punched and beaten with baseball bats in three separate incidents.

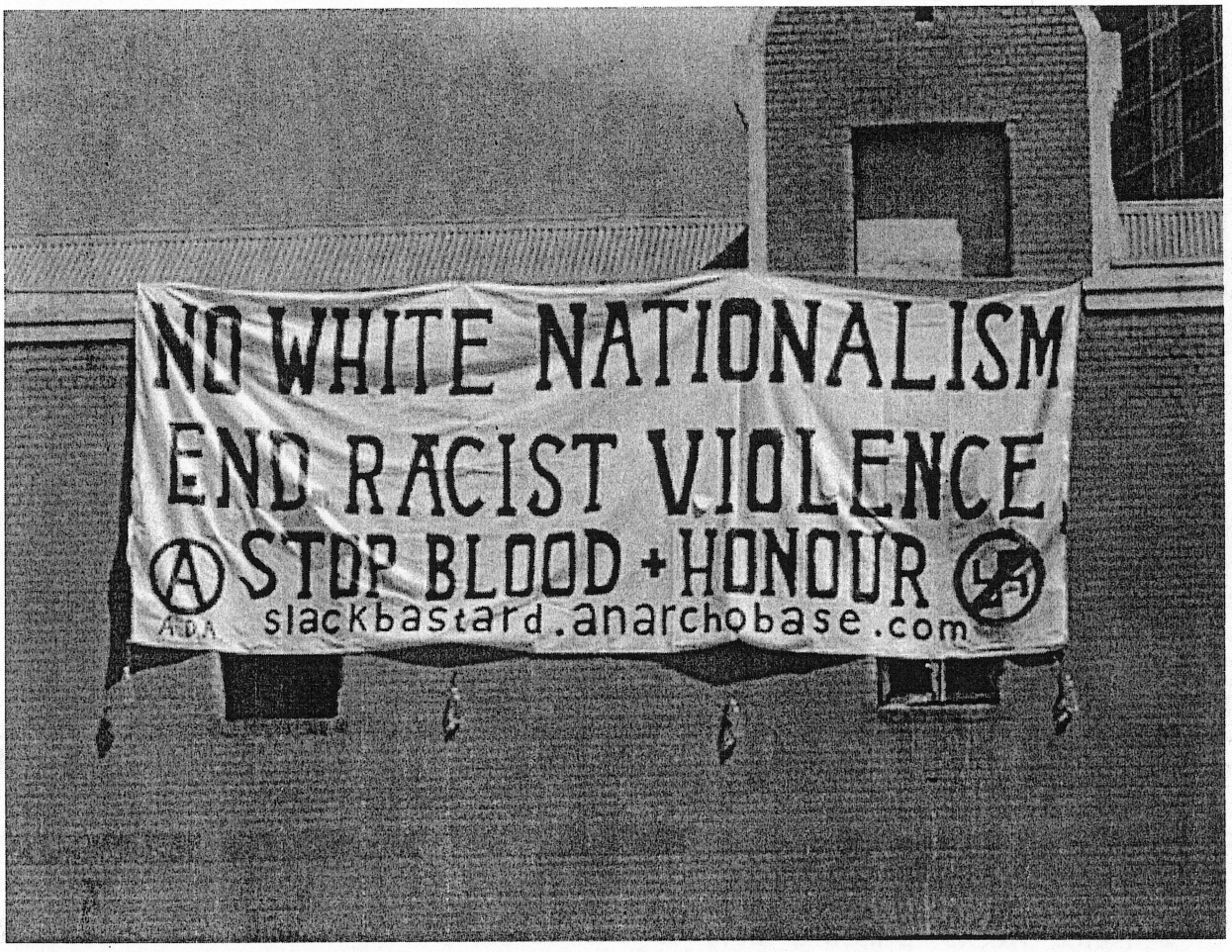
Recent white supremacist violence in Melbourne has not been limited to violence against Jews.

On Thursday 29th November, a leaflet was dropped in letter boxes around Parkville in inner-city Melbourne, headed "No More African Gang Violence". The leaflet states,

> "never has Australia seen this kind of brazen, lawless violence on such a steady basis" since Africans started arriving five years ago.

It also said that Africans do not hesitate to attack police as well as the public. It says many come from child militia groups that train them to rape, kill and torture from as young as six.

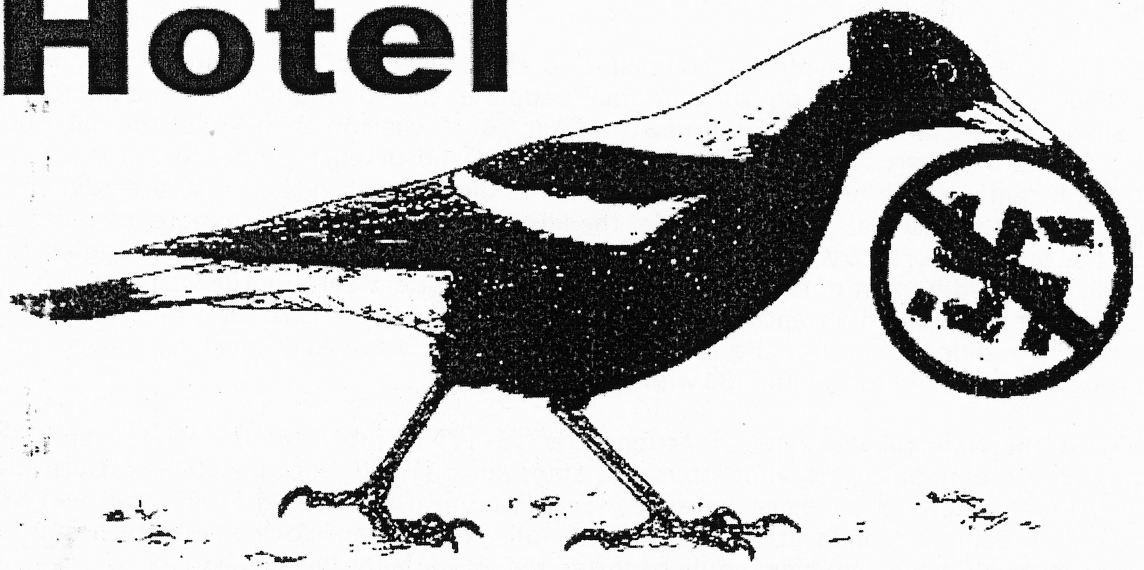
Racism is an insidious tool of oppression. Governments use it to divide people, and keep us in fear of each other. It diverts our attention from the real problems under capitalism, which have nothing to do with race and everything to do with class.



Banner sighted at the former Carlton United Brewery site, Swanston street, after the Blood and Honour / Hammerskins gig at the Croatian Social Centre/ Melbourne Knights Soccer Club.

For more information, see
http://slackbastard@anarchobase.com
http://birmyboycott.wordpress.com

Boycott the Birmingham Hotel



Say NO to Nazis organising in our community!

www.birmyboycott.wordpress.com
www.myspace.com/boycott_the_birmy

The Birmingham Hotel (333 Smith St, Fitzroy, corner of Johnston St) is well known for attracting Nazis, Nazi sympathisers and white nationalists. In September 2006, the Birmy hosted the annual 'Ian Stuart Donaldson' memorial gig, organised by two local neo-Nazi groups, Blood & Honour Australia and the Southern Cross Hammerskins. After the gig, a passer-by was harassed and racially abused and Management refused to apologise or even admit that a Nazi gig took place there that night. Under the current management, the pub has hosted a number of similar events over the last ten years.

You can boycott the Birmy by not drinking there, not attending or playing gigs there, and letting the owners and supporters know that you don't believe that supporting Nazism is "free speech". You can also lodge objections with the Yarra Council and the Liquor Licensing Board.

Action at the old Aboriginal Health Service, Fitzroy

The Old Victorian Aboriginal Health Service at 136 Gertrude St Fitzroy is a site of Historical Significance to the Victorian Aboriginal Community and an invaluable symbol of Community Control and Self Determination.

Founded in 1973, the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) moved from 229 to 136 Gertrude St in 1976 after signing a 99 year lease for the premises with the State Government. Many Aboriginal People were dying in the streets due to prolonged oppression and denial of basic human services. As staff worked without pay due to lack of funding, Aboriginal Elders including Alma Thorpe and Dr. Bruce McGuinness pioneered to establish critical community controlled preventative health care to ensure the survival of Aboriginal communities in Fitzroy and nation-wide.

In 1991, VAHS lodged an official complaint to the Minister of Police and Aboriginal Affairs regarding 'ongoing brutalisation' of Aboriginal people in the community, which continues to this day. Since the official opening of the new VAHS at 186 Nicholson St in 1993, the old Aboriginal Health Service in Gertrude St has been left abandoned and derelict, empty for 15 years. Mission Australia recently won a tender to redevelop the site into a 'bush tucker' restaurant where Kooris would be trained to 'serve' as waiters under the Mission banner. How much more insulting and low could the system go in trying to extinguish Victoria's history of Aboriginal struggles for self-determination and human rights? With no Community Cultural Centre in the vicinity of Fitzroy, the local Aboriginal community want to see this site resurrected as a crucial Community Meeting Place for healing, traditional culture, and in honour of the many brave Aboriginal Ancestors and Elders who fought for so long to live and die with dignity.

Following the National Weekend of Action (Nov 16-17) members of the Fitzroy and Victorian Indigenous Communities and supporters will stage an ongoing vigil outside 136 Gertrude St to bring overdue attention to these injustices. Each sundown the Sacred Fire Traditional Smoking Ceremony is being reignited across the road in Atherton Gardens for community healing and to pay respect to all those who have not lived to see the struggle for justice end.

Come down to the Aboriginal Health Service building to offer your support. All welcome.

* Statistics published by the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on Indigenous child abuse show Victoria has the worst track record of abuse, with nearly 5 times more cases than anywhere else in Australia.
* The Australian Bureau of Statistics recent census revealed that the Victorian Koori population suffers the highest rates of recent and chronic illness in the country.
* The 2004 United Nations Human Development Report exposes that Aboriginal people in Australia have the second worst quality of life on the planet. Australia's general population comes fourth from the top. The study measured areas of education attainment, life expectancy and median income levels.
* Another recent report by the World Health Organisation states that Indigenous Health in Australia is 100 years behind the rest of the whole population.
* This shameful genocide continues as the Australian government invades Aboriginal communities in the NT, intervenes by force in Aboriginal affairs country-wide, and refuses to sign the UN Declaration on Indigenous People's Rights because of the word "self-determination".

For further information, email: robbiethorpe@gmail.com

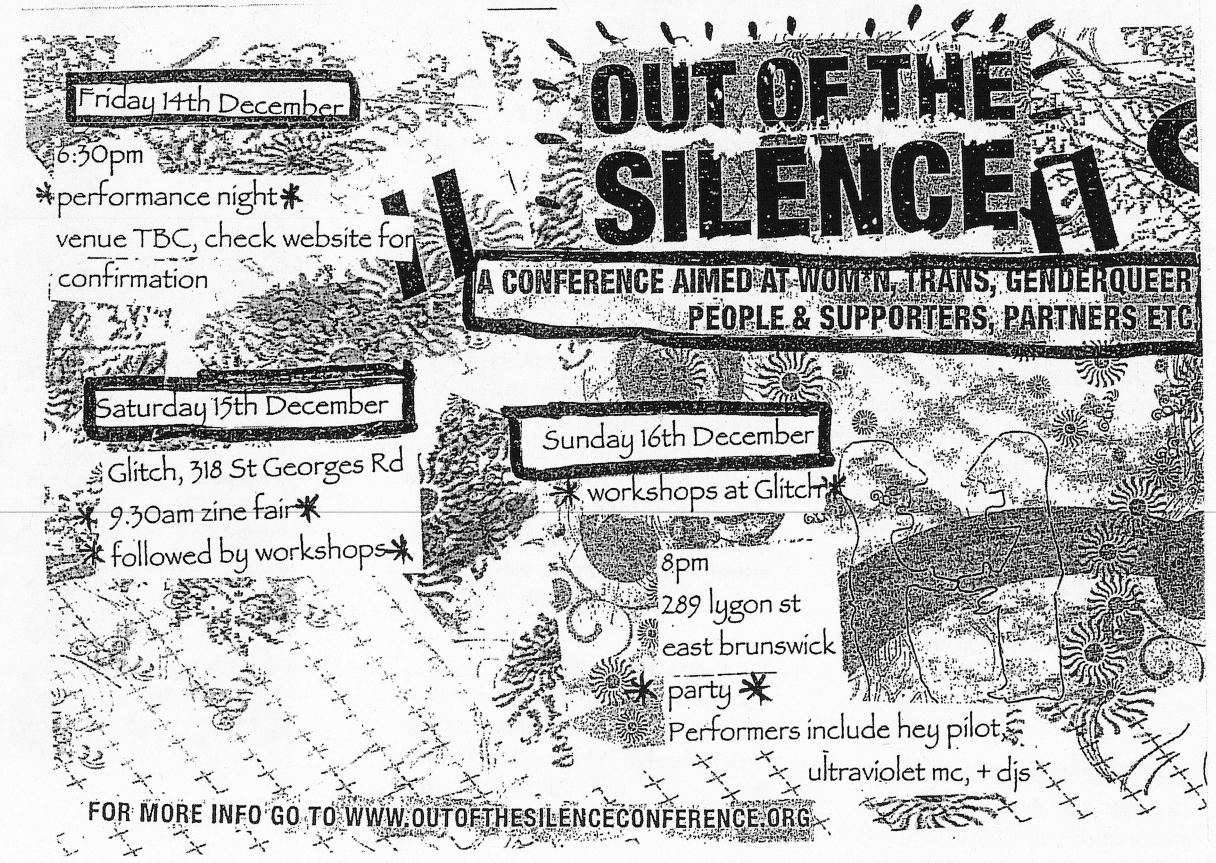
Report from the Community Responses to Sexual Assault speak-out at the State Library, Saturday 1 December 2007

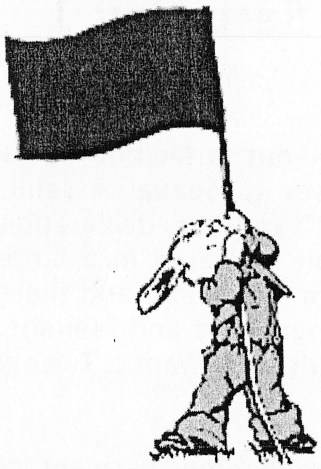
The collective World Without Sexual Assault recently held a speak-out in Melbourne as part of the International Day of Action for Community Responses to Sexual Assault. Flanked by banners calling for "A world without sexual assault" and the declaration "Consent is Asking & Listening, Verbally and Non-verbally", people gathered in a large circle on the lawns outside the State Library. Organisers read from a statement, and there was an open mic for participants who wanted to share stories, experiences and feelings. It ended with a group reading based on Andrea Dworkin's 1983 address "I Want a Twenty Four Hour Truce During Which There Is No Rape".

A statement by the collective said, "This day is about healing and empowerment of survivors and supporters. It is about saying that dealing with sexual assault is important, and that we all need to work together in our communities to make that happen."

Although the action had a lot of positive results, a number of participants expressed disappointed at the response, or lack thereof, of Melbourne's activist community. One of the arguments which has been consistently made by people within the World Without collective has been around the need for a recognition that sexual assault happens in *all* communities - including punk, anarchist and self-identifying "radical" ones - and a commitment to organising in response.

To find out more, or read the full-text of the original call-out for the action, go to: http://communitiesresponsetosexualassault.wordpress.com/ Also check out: http://www.worldwithout.org/





HOW TO: CAPTURE A FLAG

By Bootleg ben

WHAT YOU NEED

1 x Climbing karabiner
1 x climbing sling (1m)
2 lengths of 6mm prussic rope
(ask for these in a climbing store and they will know what you mean)

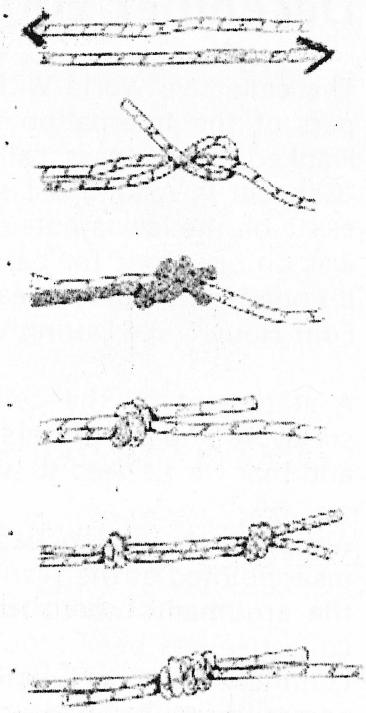


Figure 1

1: making a harness.

A basic harness that will hold your weight can be made by wrapping the sling around your waist from behind and bringing one of the sides up between your legs so the three points meet at your crotch. These are then secured together with the karabiner

2: Making a prussic rope.

Two different sized prussic ropes are required, the first will attach to your harness. to make this take the short rope and join the ends together to make it a loop using a double fisherman knot (see figure 1). The required length of this rope will vary as to the circumference of the pole you want to climb (e.g. Circ = 36cm, rope needs to be 2.2 m)
The second will be longer and will be
Used as your foot loop, the required length of this will vary as to your height. (E.g 6ft, 4.5m rope)

3:attaching to the flagpole

(street sign, light post, drainpipe etc.)
First take the shorter prussic and wrap it around the post and back through itself, do this twice then attach the loop end to the karabiner on your harness (see figure 2). This loop should be as short as practical. Next take the longer prussic and loop it the same way around the pole above the shorter prussic. The end loop should reach to just above your foot.

4: Climbing the flagpole

First sit into your harness and you will see that the short prussic will tighten around the pole and take your weight. Next slide the foot prussic up and then stand up so it takes your weight. This will allow you to now slide the harness prussic up. Sit down into the harness and repeat the process.
*When you reach the flag you can either steal it, burn it, turn it upside down or replace it with your own.

5: Coming down

To descend the pole stand in the foot prussic and slide the harness prussic down. Place your weight in the harness and slid the foot prussic down. Repeat process to descend.

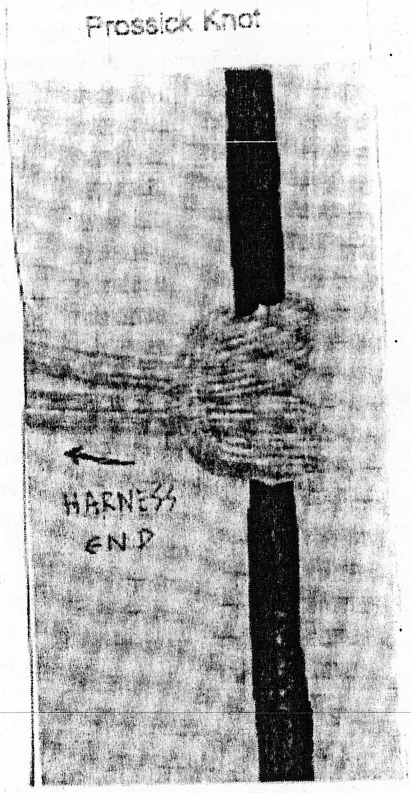


Figure 2